The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims</u>:

1. (currently amended) A mattress system, comprising:

a mattress having a top surface and a bottom surface;

a cavity arranged in the mattress, the cavity being open at least toward the top surface and having a defined size;

an expandable cushion arranged in the cavity;

a mattress protector covering at least the top surface of the mattress, the protector including a first portion that extends into the cavity and a second portion that extends over the expandable cushion arranged in the cavity; and

a control system operatively coupled with the cushion to control an expansion and contraction of the cushion, wherein the control system includes a fluidic pump arranged to pump fluid into the expandable cushion, a fluid relief mechanism arranged to allow fluid to escape the expandable cushion, a fluid pressure reservoir for maintaining a relatively constant pressure in the fluidic system, and a fluid pressure switch operable to automatically activate and deactivate the fluidic pump to maintain a defined pressure level in the expandable cushion.

2. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is air, and

wherein a control switch is provided to control an inflation and deflation of the expandable cushion.

- 3. (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein the control switch is an electric control switch.
- 4. (new) The system according to claim 1, further comprising a fluid pressure reservoir operatively coupled with the control system.
 - 5. (new) The system according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is air.
 - 6. (new) The system according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is a liquid.
 - 7. (new) The system according to claim 1, wherein the fluid relief mechanism allows the fluid to escape the expandable cushion to maintain the defined pressure level.